

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 15th January 2024 in the Council Chamber, The Old Courthouse, Jaycroft Road, Burnham-on-Sea at 7 pm

Present: Councillors G. Gudka (Chair), R. Baker, P. Clayton, A. Elrick, M. Facey, R. Keen, A. Matthews, B. Metcalfe, S. Perry, C. Searing, B. Vickers

In attendance: K. Noble (Town Clerk), N. Brookes (RFO), Councillor Millard, Councillor Murphy and 4 members of the public.

Public Participation – There were no representations made.

112.0.F24 To receive apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

113.0.F24 To receive any declarations of interest on items included on this agenda

There were no declarations of interests.

114.0.F24 To receive the list of payments up to 8th January 2023

The list of payments attached to these minutes were noted and no queries were raised.

115.0.F24 To review the responses to the precept public consultation

Councillor Gudka gave an overview of the report and each of the seven service areas were considered.

1. Transport – It has been noted that Somerset Council have recognised the importance of this service. It was agreed that it would not be viable for the Town Council to fund any services.

(Councillor Clayton joined the meeting at this juncture)

2. Highways – A discussion regarding the Highways Stewards Scheme took place and it was noted that Exmoor, who trial the scheme, had difficulty in filling the time. Some of the smaller parishes within the LCN had expressed an interest. It was confirmed that the Town Council could work with other LCN areas. A part-time person would be sufficient for the Town Council's needs.
3. Public Conveniences – The Town Council currently cover two thirds of the costs for the public conveniences and it will cost another £25,000 plus 10% for maintenance to ensure all public conveniences remain open. The consultation results showed this was an important service, which Members agreed with.



4. Street Scene – A query was raised if the Highbridge Recycling Centre would be closing, it was confirmed this is not one of the 5 sites to close. The Town Clerk was asked to request further information regarding proposals for changes to the litter bin emptying. Planting will only be provided if the costs are met by the Town Council, so alternative options to work with volunteers will be considered.
5. Open Spaces – Somerset Council will continue to maintain the play areas etc, but no equipment will be replaced. The Town Council could take on smaller parks this year, but this was not favourable. It is anticipated that play areas will be transferred to the Town Council next year. It was felt that some monies should be included in the budget for equipment repairs/forward planning.
6. Tourism – There is no risk to the Tourist Information Centre as it is not funded by Somerset Council, however, the Town Council will lobby Somerset Council to ensure the peppercorn rent remains without any increase.
7. Community Resilience – The Town Council could store gel bags for flooding events but would not purchase any more.

A long discussion regarding CCTV took place. The cameras may not need to be monitored, as long as recording is taking place. There could be another option to move the system. Sedgemoor District Council were going to upgrade the CCTV cameras, but this did not happen and some cameras are not working. It was agreed that the CCTV contribution should remain in the budget.

Resolved that the following amounts are incorporated into the draft budget;

Highway Steward	£25,000
Public Conveniences	£31,830
Play Areas	£10,000

Resolved that the Town Clerk writes to Somerset Council to request that the CCTV service is maintained for public safety and that the cameras that are not working are reinstated.

116.0.F24 To review the draft budget for 2024/2025

The Committee reviewed all the budget lines and debated several items. A query was raised regarding investments and if the Council is receiving a good interest return. It was confirmed that the Investment Policy is being reviewed and would be considered by the Committee shortly.

Some concerns were raised that the cemetery interments income was too low, especially compared to the previous year's income.



A discussion regarding the Princess Theatre's income took place and whether the income should be increased. It was agreed that the current amount was achievable and should remain as it. It wouldn't stop the ambition to increase the income.

It was noted that the pension deficit payments would not be required in 2024/25.

There was a discussion regarding the grants budget and it was agreed that the grant policy should be reviewed in February/March.

Councillor Vickers put forward a proposal to stop providing dog bags , which was seconded by Councillor Perry but was not carried.

Resolved that the following amendments be made to the draft budget;

Income

100/1080, Bank Interest – Increase to £7,500

500/1520, Interments – Increase to £20,000

Expenditure

100/4140, Climate Change – Reduce to £1,500

The updated budget would be reviewed again at the next meeting.

117.0.F24 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee will be held on 23rd January 2024 at 7 pm.

DATE OF INVOICE	SUPPLIER	INVOICE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT	GROSS
18/12/2023	Bravo		737 Abba Tribute Duty technician	£157.70	£31.54	£189.24
14/12/2023	Business Waste	C1285201	Paper waste - TC	-£11.00	-£2.20	-£13.20
20/12/2023	Fuse	INVBHTC02	Eco Festival Recycled Arts			£400.00
21/12/2023	Hillside Business Services	00139	Complete interim internal audit			£396.00
08/12/2023	Proper Job	Z0009T02-472696	gloves & washing up liquid	£8.47	£1.70	£10.17
15/12/2023	Proper Job	Z0009T02-474648	nuts & screws	£4.37	£0.88	£5.25
14/12/2023	Proper Job	Z0009T03-1474645	hinges	£1.91	£0.38	£2.29
14/12/2023	Purnells		126076 500 x booklets Princess Theatre	£411.00	£22.40	£433.40
15/12/2023	Spot on Supplies		31652281 air freshners x 12	£11.44	£2.29	£13.73
17/12/2023	MJ Church	B13697-501014	Waste services - cemeteries	£25.16	£5.03	£30.19
17/12/2023	MJ Church	B13697-501015	Waste services - cemeteries	£20.74	£4.15	£24.89
17/12/2023	MJ Church	B13697-501016	Waste services - cemeteries	£20.74	£4.15	£24.89
26/12/2023	Amazon	GB3JFJMABEY	LED Panel lights - PT	£89.04	£17.82	£106.86
22/12/2023	Bravo		740 Technician - Panto SYT	£95.00	£19.00	£114.00
10/11/2023	Bright Blue Light	INV_23-1209	electrical tape/light parts - PT	£161.69	£32.34	£194.02
29/12/2023	Business Waste	P1290405	Paper waste - TC	£11.00	£2.20	£13.20
29/12/2023	ITEC		943129 photocopier services	£66.73	£13.34	£80.07
31/12/2023	Lyreco		6723703787 laminator	£156.39	£31.28	£187.67
31/12/2023	Morland Community Hub	INV-0403	Hall hire			£65.00
26/12/2023	Pozitive Energy	4104820234731660	late payment charge.			£85.00
31/12/2023	Pozitive Energy	410483001551	credit note late payment charge			-£85.00
01/01/2024	Sansum	INV-10823	Cleaning - TC	£280.16	£56.03	£336.19
20/12/2024	Paragon Internet		7794341 domain renewal -PT	£7.95	£1.59	£9.54
31/12/2024	Biffa	308C37195	Waste collection - Princess Theatre	£193.81	£38.76	£232.57
01/01/2024	Business Waste	P1293497	Paper waste - TC	£22.00	£4.40	£26.40
03/01/2024	Somerset Council		30045931 By election recharge costs			£9,205.55
20/12/2023	Otis	23076528/U1	contractual maintenance	£125.13	£25.03	£150.16
Cashbook payments						
	Somerset Council		Dec-23 pension payment			£9,045.38
	Willow Funeral Services	refund	Cemeteries refund			£420.00
						£21,703.46